Watchung Library Advisory Board Minutes
Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Mission Statement

The mission of the Watchung Library Advisory Board is to advise, support and promote the interests of the Watchung Borough Public Library.

A meeting of the Library Advisory Board was held this day in the Bicentennial Room of the Watchung Library, 12 Stirling Road, Watchung, NJ 07069.

Call to Order

President Amy Fiorilla opened the meeting and called the meeting to order at 3:07 PM.

In Attendance

Amy Fiorilla, President

Margaret (Peggy) Ellis, Vice President

Eileen Dicken, Treasurer

Virginia Hartmann

Maureen Greenbaum

Annette von Brandis, Secretary

Keith McCoy, SCLSNJ

Absent

Stephen K. Pote, Mayor

Michael Vignola, Principal Bayberry School

Stephen Black, Council Liaison

Hannah Kerwin, Branch Manager, Watchung Library

Introduction

This is a meeting of the Library Advisory Board of the Borough of Watchung. This and all other meetings are conducted in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

Review of Minutes of September 13, 2017 Meeting

The minutes of the September 13 meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report
Eileen Dicken informed the Board that the bank balance was $9128.68 in August 2017.
The library fines of $236.18 and $11.26 in fish donation were added. The payment of $50 for the monthly maintenance to Aqua Services brought the balance to $9326.12.

Report of the Friends Liaison

Margaret Ellis reported that the sponsored event featuring Creepy Crawlers was very well attended. The crowd of children and adults filled the room's capacity at 65 people. The children especially enjoyed the legless lizard. The totes giveaway at the Bayberry Trunk or Treat and the Harvest festival was a huge success. The friends gave away 180 totes, encouraging kids to use the brightly colored bags emblazoned with the library Friends logo as very visible trick or treat bags. The bags were purchased by the Friends out of their own budget funded by Second Story Books and other fundraising efforts. There will be a Friends' holiday open house on December 9 with simple holiday crafts such as origami, 2-4pm in the Bicentennial Room.

Library Branch

Amy Fiorilla reported that Hannah Kerwin requested $200 for the holiday party. The monies were approved, to be used with local vendors keeping track of all receipts.

In the branch, Chris Fine has retired and her position will not be replaced.
Adam Volpe's position was cut to half time—he is also working half time at Bound Brook.
Patti Zeitler left last week and will be replaced.

Other Business

We reviewed the language on the ballot for the State Construction Bond Act vote on November 7. Only those libraries will be funded which have their application in accompanied by concrete plans, budget estimated and shovel ready to break ground or in progress.

The letter from SCLS commission to council was read aloud which describes how the library in its current state is not a sustainable solution for the provision of its services, urging Watchung to proceed with a plan in the most urgent manner. The letter from the County Library Commission sets a deadline of the end of 2017 for action on the part of council in replacing the failing building, and states that services would be effected if the building were not brought up to ADA code and made safe.
Next we discussed the proposed letter from WLAB to council to be presented at the council meeting November 20th. Approval of the board was obtained.

It was noted that Watchung residents would still have to pay the $800,000 to the County even if we choose to use other branch libraries but close our own. Based on the Council Minutes October 5, 2017, it seems that that is not clear to everyone. WLAB decided to clarify this at the November 20 council meeting.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for January 3, 2018 at 3:00 PM in the Bicentennial Room at the Watchung Library.

Adjournment

On motion and unanimous agreement, the meeting was adjourned at 4:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Annette von Brandis